

including the Republican leadership in Congress—is keeping our negotiating partner from the negotiating table, and it is pretty hard to negotiate without someone on the other side of the table to talk to.

Republicans have to resolve their own deep disagreements before we can find middle ground between the two parties. We have tried to wait patiently for them to do that, but our patience and the patience of the American people is wearing very thin.

We have only 2 weeks before the current temporary budget expires. Time is not on our side. It is time, I say to my Republican colleagues, to get to work. Work out your differences.

I, once again, remind the Senate that our willingness to compromise is in recognition of reality. We have already voted on a Democratic proposal and a Republican proposal. We have seen in practice—not just theory—that neither plan can pass unless it is adjusted. We all know neither party can pass a bill without the other party and neither Chamber can send that bill to the President without the other Chamber.

Democrats have long ago acknowledged that we need Republicans to pass a bill. But Republicans still have not admitted to themselves they need Democrats to pass a bill. Cooperation and compromise are not just good ideas. They are not political slogans. They are essential to the endgame. With a cooperative spirit and willingness to compromise, we can move the country forward. Without them, we cannot. It is as simple as that.

I can only speak for my Democrats when I say we are ready to negotiate and legislate. We are ready to do our jobs. But we cannot negotiate with ourselves, and we will not negotiate through the media. Once the Republicans settle their own internal disagreements and decide for what they stand, we will get this done. Until that happens, the country waits, watches, and worries.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any remarks of Senator McCONNELL, if he does wish to speak, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the small business jobs bill. There are currently 10 amendments pending. We will continue to work through them in order to complete action on this bill this week.

At 4:30 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40, the nomination of Mae D'Agostino, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on that judgeship that needs to be filled.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BOOZMAN be recognized at 2:30 p.m. for up to 20 minutes to make his maiden speech to the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Will the Chair announce morning business, please.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MILITARY ACTION IN LIBYA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, as the American naval aviators in the Mediterranean wait offshore to fly combat missions against the Libyan Army, as marines wait for the call to go ashore to rescue a downed pilot, or as Air Force pilots fly combat air patrol, we are confident that all military orders will be met with the same professionalism and skill we have come to expect of our All-Volunteer Force. The valor and loyalty of the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces have never been in question. Yet, despite that certainty, many Americans view our military intervention in Libya with anxiety and uncertainty. They are wondering why U.S. forces are once again engaged in combat action against an Arab regime in the Middle East. They are wondering when this operation will end and when their loved ones will return. And they are asking another reasonable question: What is the mission?

If the American people are uncertain as to our military objectives in Libya, it is with good cause. The President has failed to explain up to this point

what follows the evident establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya as it was originally described. Further, the President has articulated a wider political objective of regime change in Libya that is not the stated objective of our military intervention, nor is it the mandate of the U.N. resolution the President has used as a justification for our military efforts there.

Now that the objective of establishing a no-fly zone has been reached and our NATO allies are ready to assume the command and execution of this mission, it is fair to ask, what is the role of our military and military alliance in providing support to an opposition we are only now beginning to understand?

These concerns and questions are equally relevant here in the Senate and in the Congress since it is the responsibility of Congress to declare war, if it is war, and, of course, to fund our military operations.

The President stated:

There is no decision I face as your commander in chief that I consider as carefully as the decision to ask our men and women to use military force. Particularly at a time when our military is fighting in Afghanistan and winding down our activities in Iraq, that decision is only made more difficult.

Yet this latest decision was taken without adequate consultation with Congress or sufficient explanation to the American people.

Since returning from South America, the President has begun to talk in greater detail about our involvement in Libya. For the second time, he has discussed our operations in and around Libya with the congressional leadership. Over the weekend, he devoted his entire address to the topic, and he will speak to the American people tonight about our operations in Libya. All of this is welcome and, in my view, overdue.

Before addressing what answers I hope to hear from the President this evening, let me address the notifications to Congress that the President made.

Prior to the initiation of combat activities in Libya, the congressional leadership received two forms of notification of the President's decision to order Americans into harm's way. Prior to departing for his overseas trip, the President notified the congressional leadership of his plans to send American forces into combat action in a limited, discrete role to destroy the integrated air defenses of the Libyan Government and to enable our allies to establish a no-fly zone over Libya. The second notification was a written communication as part of his responsibilities under the War Powers Resolution.

Throughout his communications with the congressional leadership, the President has emphasized that the U.S. military would not undertake ground combat against the Libyan Army and that the American combat role would be limited in time, scope, and would be used simply as a means "to set the conditions for our European allies and